

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 6, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 11 and ending at line 26, and replace with the following:

[00026] FIG. 1 illustrates a trocar system 20 which preferably includes a cannula 30 having an elongate cannula body 31. The cannula body 31 includes distal 32 and medial 33 portions thereof, having a first diameter and a proximal portion 34 thereof connected to the medial portion 33 and having a second diameter. The second diameter is preferably larger or greater than the first diameter as illustrated. The trocar system 20 also has finger gripping means 35 connected to and extending outwardly from the proximal portion 34 of the cannula body 31 for gripping the cannula 30 with the fingers F of a hand H of a user U and a trocar 40 having an elongate trocar body 41 for extending through the cannula 30. The trocar 40 also has a handle 50 including a proximal handle end portion 52 and a distal handle end portion 54 having a diameter smaller than the proximal handle end portion 52 and connected to the trocar body 41 for gripping of and handling of the trocar 40 by a hand H of a user U.

At page 6, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 27 and ending on page 7, line 12, and replace with the following:

[00027] As perhaps best shown in FIGS. 1-3, the finger gripping means 35 of the trocar system 20, for example, can be provided by a pair of finger grips 36, 37 connected to outer surfaces of the proximal portion of the cannula body. Each of the pair of finger grips includes a finger support web 38, 39 to thereby define a pair of finger support webs. Each of the pair of finger support webs 38, 39 is connected at a position substantially 180 degrees from the other of the pair as illustrated. The medial portion 33 of the cannula body 31 connects to the proximal portion ~~32-34~~ of the cannula body at an area defining a proximal transition region 25. Each of the pair of support webs 38, 39 has a distal peripheral surface 28, 29 which extends outwardly from the proximal portion 34 of the cannula body 31 and extends proximally from a plane substantially perpendicular to the transition region 25 of the cannula body 31.

At page 7, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 13 and ending at line 29, and replace with the following:

[00028] Also, each of the tactile finger support webs 38, 39 preferably has a roughened or ridged outer peripheral surface for reducing finger slippage when positioned on the finger support webs 38, 39 (see FIG. 2). Each of the pair of finger support webs 38, 39 are preferably formed integrally with the cannula body 31 as a single piece. At least one of the pair of finger support webs 38 includes an auxiliary fluid port 22 extending through a medial portion of the ~~fluid-finger~~ support web 38 to allow fluid, e.g., gas or liquid, to flow therethrough. A flow control valve 24, e.g., a stop flow or on/off flow valve which slidably extends across the port 22, is associated with the auxiliary fluid port 22 of the at least one 38 of the pair of finger support webs 38, 39 for controlling fluid flow, such as carbon dioxide, through the auxiliary fluid port 22 to the inner tubular portions of the cannula as illustrated.

At page 10, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 8 and ending at line 29, and replace with the following:

[00032] The second valve 66 preferably has an annular flange portion 71 for enhancing positioning of the second valve 66 within the end housing 60, annular-shaped sidewalls 68 connected to the annular flange and extending distally when positioned in the end housing, and at least a pair of valve flaps 69 connected to and extending inwardly from the sidewalls 68 and/or flange portion 71. The sidewalls, for example, can ~~extend~~ extending distally of the end housing so that the flange portion 71 retains only portions of the valve within the end housing and yet slidably or in a spaced-apart relation have other portions which are positioned within the proximal portion of the cannula body. The pair of valve flaps 69 have at least one slit along common peripheral edges thereof through which the trocar body 41 extends. The second valve 66 also preferably has ribs or rib members connected to, e.g., formed integrally therewith as a single piece, the sidewalls 68 as illustrated to reduce drag as will be understood by those skilled

in the art. The second valve is also preferably impregnated with a lubricant such as an oil material to enhance performance of the valve.

At page 11, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 27 and ending on page 12, line 16, and replace with the following:

[00034] According to yet another aspect of the present invention, the trocar 40, or spike or obturator if used as well, of the trocar system 20 preferably has an elongate trocar body 41 for extending through the cannula 30. The elongate trocar body 41 has a sharpened distal end portion 42, a medial portion 43 thereof including having a first section 43' having a first diameter and a second section 43'' having a second diameter, and a proximal portion 44 having a third second diameter. The second diameter is preferably smaller than the first diameter. The ~~second-third~~ diameter is preferably larger or greater than the first diameter. The trocar 40 also has a handle 50 connected to a proximal end portion 44 of the trocar body 41 for gripping of and handling of the trocar 40 by a hand H of a user U and a shield 45 slidably mounted to the medial portion 43 of the trocar body 41 and biased in an extended position so that a distal end ~~46~~ 42' of the shield 45 coveringly protects the sharpened distal end 42 of the trocar body 41 until pressure is applied thereagainst so that the shield 45 slidably moves toward the proximal portion 44 of the trocar body 41 in a retracted position. The shield 45 preferably has a fourth third diameter which is at least equal to or less than the third second diameter as illustrated.

At page 12, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 17 and ending at page 13, line 4, and and replace with the following:

[00035] The shield 45 as a tubular-shaped shield body 47 that substantially surrounds the medial portion 43 of the trocar body 41 and biasing means, e.g., provided by a spring 48 or other biasing member, positioned between the outer surface of the second section 43'' of the medial portion 43 of the trocar body 41 and an inner surface of the tubular-shaped shield body 47, and positioned in contact with and extending between the first section 43' and an inwardly extending

shoulder 51 of shield 45 that extends inwardly. The trocar body 41 preferably includes a trocar body transition region having an outer surface extending outwardly from the medial portion 43 of the proximal portion 44, forming and defining a shield stop 49 when the shield 45 is biased to the retracted position. The shield stop 49 is preferably a first shield stop, and a second shield stop 46, such as provided by a rod or pin member can also or alternatively be connected to the trocar body 41 and cooperates with the shield body 47, e.g., to extend through a slot formed therein, to provide an alternative or an auxiliary stop ~~stopped~~ for the shield body 47 when moving to the retracted position. ~~In addition, shield 45 has a shoulder 51 that extends inwardly and is located between biasing means 48 and distal end portion 42.~~

At page 13, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 5 and ending at line 19, and replace with the following:

[00036] The sharpened distal end portion 42, e.g., preferably having a pyramidal tip, of the trocar 40 preferably has a ~~fourth~~ fifth diameter. The fifth ~~fourth~~ diameter is preferably larger than the second ~~first~~ diameter of the medial portion 43'' of the trocar body 41. The shield body 47 also preferably has a beveled distal end which corresponds to the shape and position of the sharpened distal end portion 42 and which extends beyond a distal end of the sharpened distal end portion 42 of the trocar body 41. This shield body can, for example, have a protruding section as illustrated or have other shaped protruding section, e.g., a nosed or other tip with which contact allows the shield body 47 to retract and yet not significantly damage the object, tissue or other item to which it abuttingly contacts.

At page 13, please delete the paragraph beginning at 29 and ending at page 14, line 15, and replace with the following:

[00038] The present invention also includes a method of using a trocar system 20 having the steps of detaching a cannula end housing 60 from a proximal end portion of a cannula body and removing tissue or other specimen as understood by those skilled in the art from the cannula

body 31. The method can also include the end housing 60 having at least one valve 62, 66 positioned therein. The cannula end housing 60 and the cannula body 31 each have a substantially annular shape, and the cannula body 31 has a medial portion 33 having a first diameter and a proximal portion 34 connected to the medial portion 33 and having a second diameter. The second diameter is preferably larger or greater than the first diameter. The method can further include the detaching step including rotating the cannula end housing 60 a preselected rotational direction, e.g., counter-clockwise, and the at least one valve 62, ~~66~~ including a first and a second valve 62, 66 each connected to the cannula end housing 60 (see FIGS. 3-5 and 9-13).

At page 14, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 16 and ending at page 15, line 2, and replace with the following:

[00039] Additionally, the present invention can include a method of using a trocar 40. The method preferably has the steps of inserting a trocar 40 through the body 31 of a cannula 30, retracting a shield 45 of the trocar 40 from a distal end portion 42 of the trocar 40 toward a proximal end portion 44 of the trocar 40 responsive to pressure on a distal end portion ~~46~~ 42' of the shield 45, and stopping the retracting of the shield 45 by the use of a transition region 49 between a medial portion 43' of the trocar 40 and a proximal portion 44 of the trocar body 41 or by the use of another stop member. The method can also include the trocar 40 having a handle 50 connected to a proximal portion 44 thereof, the handle 50 has a thumb rest 53 positioned on an outer surface thereof, and the step of inserting preferably includes pressing the thumb of a user on the thumb rest 53 of the handle 50 when passing through the cannula body 31.